

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-70 were pending. Claims 1-4, 7-14, and 32-44 were examined and rejected. The claims have been amended as noted above. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-14, and 32-44 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,509,290 to Faivre. Such rejections have been overcome as follows. Independent claims 1 and 32 have been amended. All other independent claim sets have been canceled. The amendments to claims 1 and 32 more particularly set forth that the guideways "have parallel side faces" and that each die segment "engages the parallel side face of a guideway during radially outward sliding of the die segment to limit axial displacement of said die segment." The Faivre '290 patent nowhere discloses such structure.

Faivre '290 discloses a die comprising a shell-formed part 30/60 having two openings 37/67 with a pin therebetween. As can be seen in Figs. 4 and 5, pins 68 extend into notches (identified with numeral 54 in the text but missing from the figures) to prevent rotation of the matrix-parts 48 relative to body 41, as best seen in Fig. 5 and discussed at Col. 4, lines 7-11.

When a joint is formed using the die cavity of Faivre '290, the heels 47 of the matrix-parts 48 slide on surface 46 in response to force from the resilient means 58, i.e. the ring shown in Fig. 3. The corners 55 of the matrix-parts 48 pass through opening 67 at the end of travel, as discussed at Col. 4, lines 12-15. Of particular relevance to the present invention, the whole length of travel of the heels 47 occurs without any engagement between the side faces of the opening 67 and the matrix-parts 48. While the matrix-parts 48 contact the side faces openings at the end of their travel, there is no engagement between the side faces of the openings and the matrix-parts 48 during travel. The matrix-parts 48 thus engage the side face openings at the end of their travel only.

For these reasons, Applicants believe that independent claims 1 and 32, as well as all claims dependent thereon, clearly distinguish the teachings of Faivre '290. For that reason, Applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance and request that the application be passed to issue at an early date.

**CONCLUSION**

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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